

BOXING THE ONLY KIND OF WEAPONLESS FIGHTING ADAPTED TO PUBLIC VIEW

La Savate, French Art of Using Feet Instead of Fists, Can Easily Be Fatal, While Jiu-Jitsu, Japanese Art of Self-Defense, Is Such a Deadly Method of Fighting That It Cannot Be Used in Public Matches or Exhibitions.

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FOR many years there has been an unsettled question in boxing circles. Champions in other lines of combative sport have claimed that they could defeat boxers, while boxers have insisted that the wallow was supreme.

R. Edgren's COLUMN

La savate, the French art of using the feet instead of the fists, has almost gone out of fashion in France since the boxers became so tremendously popular there. Boxing, of course, is particularly well adapted to public contests, for a knockout blow delivered with the padded flat produces no permanent injury. Being cleanly knocked out by a well delivered rap on the jaw is merely a temporary inconvenience, seldom leaving even a headache as a souvenir of the occasion. But a blow delivered with the heel, savate style, can easily be fatal, and is at least likely to leave the recipient for life.

Jiu jitsu, the Japanese art of self defense, was originated by the ancient Samurai for the purpose of defense by an unarmed man suddenly attacked by one or more armed enemies. While it seems almost absurd to say that a half naked and entirely unarmed man can defend himself against a swordman, the jiu jitsu men have often shown that it is entirely possible. Naturally, jiu jitsu isn't pleasant, and some exercises it is intended to be deadly, and it is deadly. I'd rather stamp on a rattlesnake than attack a jiu jitsu expert lying on his back on the ground. I have known a number of very skillful jiu jitsu men, and they have taught me some of their tricks and shown me many that are used only in the greatest emergencies. Self control is the first thing taught to the jiu jitsu pupil, and it is only after he has been trained for years and his temper put to severe tests that he is taught the mysteries of the deadly tricks. It is an absolute fact that a skilled jiu jitsu man can kill any ordinary man in a few seconds with his bare hands, or break his legs and render him helpless with his kicking tricks. Beside jiu jitsu, the primary school in addition and abstraction compared to an engineer's course in higher mathematics.

Several alleged "matches" between jiu jitsu men and wrestlers have been staged in this country. But to any one who knows anything about the real jiu jitsu they have been farcical. The real jiu jitsu cannot be used in public matches or exhibitions, because the real jiu jitsu is a very deadly method of fighting, which kills or cripples the defeated man. Against a wrestler in a public match, the jiu jitsu artist can use only the simplest tricks and cannot even carry these to a conclusion. For instance, years ago George Rothner wrestled a Japanese named Nishiki. While Nishiki was only a pupil in jiu jitsu—not a master—he showed what he could have done to Rothner. Catching Rothner's jacket in both hands he fell backward and dragging Rothner with him placed his foot against Rothner's stomach and sent him flying head first to the mat with a sudden push. That was merely the beginning of one of the simplest jiu jitsu tricks. In a real fight it would have been completed with a kick delivered in a certain way while Rothner was flying through the air in a defenseless position, and that kick might have been fatal. The jiu jitsu men are handicapped in giving exhibitions. For one thing, demonstrating tricks that break bones or cause fatalities is not allowed to show the secret tricks in their art, which are so carefully guarded that only highly trained students are taught them. The simple crippling or killing tricks of jiu jitsu were publicly shown, unskilled people would try them, and many serious or fatal accidents would follow.

In Australia a couple of years ago a white man who had studied jiu jitsu in Japan, named McVey, fought against Sam McVey, the negro heavyweight fighter. The white man weighed about 160 pounds. McVey weighed 225. The white man tried to have the match postponed because he was weak from a severe fever, but was compelled to go on. Twice the jiu jitsu man got McVey into a position that forced McVey to get up, but he was knocked down, and before he could get up, McVey jumped on him and banged his head against the floor until he was unconscious.

Several years ago I knew a Japanese jiu jitsu artist who was "jumped" by a gang up in Harlem at night. He threw himself to the ground and the rangers tried to kick his head off. I don't remember just how many times he was hit, but he cleaned out the gang very effectively, and the next day called upon me, suave and smiling as ever, and without a scratch.

In Siam the natives have a fighting style almost exactly like savate. They kick with the ball of the foot, drawing the toes up, and with heel, also using knee and conventional. They have great tournaments and annual championships. The jiu jitsu men have practiced this art and held their contests for hundreds of years. A fast and clever boxer can defeat a savate artist. The world's champion, when Kid McCoy visited France and was matched against the savate champion, he was beaten by a lights in winning by strategy. As the savate man approached him and fell into his fighting pose, McCoy dropped his hands and, putting to rest the question of a natural tone, "What is that lady saying to you?" The savate man turned to look. When they brought him to consciousness an hour

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SOME INSTANCES SHOWING HOW BOXERS DEFEATED LA SAVATE ARTISTS



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